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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

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**SENSITIVE**

SOURCE REF:

CIA/DCI/WHIZWH 741205

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.4  
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS  
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-5

DATE: 5 DECEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF US SUPPORT FOR ABORTIVE PLOT AGAINST  
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN 1970

REF : FBIS 73, 5 DEC 74, UNCLAS;

REUTER 1245, 5 DEC 74, UNCLAS;

B/A, CONF

AN ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE REPORTED TODAY THAT ONE OF THE  
WITNESSES IN THE RECENT INVESTIGATION INTO RIGHT-WING COUP PLANS  
IN ITALY HAS ACCUSED THE US SIXTH FLEET OF HAVING BEEN READY  
TO SUPPORT THE ABORTED 1970 PLOT HATCHED BY THE LATE PRINCE  
BORGHESE TO OVERTHROW THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. THE US EMBASSY  
DENIED THE REPORT TODAY.

THE WITNESS REPORTEDLY TOLD ITALIAN SECRET SERVICE AGENTS--  
IN THE COURSE OF A CONFESSION--THAT THE FLEET WAS ANCHORED OFF-  
SHORE READY TO BACK THE COUP, BUT SET OUT TO SEA WHEN THE ATTEMPT

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WENT AWRY.

TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT ONE OF THE ACCUSED CONSPIRATORS HAS TRIED TO IMPLICATE THE US. MA LEFT-WING WEEKLY MAGAZINE, HOWEVER, HAD PREVIOUSLY CHARGED THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND AN ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE HAD A HAND IN THE PLANS.

THE ACCUSATION PROBABLY WILL PUT THE BORGHESE AFFAIR BACK ON THE FRONT PAGES IN ITALY. INTEREST IN THE AFFAIR HAD PEAKED IN EARLY NOVEMBER WHEN FORMER INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MICELI WAS ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED COMPLICITY.

THE INCIDENT COULD ALSO REINFORCE THE RECENT TENDENCY IN ITALY--ESPECIALLY SINCE THE REVELATIONS OF ALLEGED US INVOLVEMENT IN CHILE--TO BELIEVE THE WORST ABOUT THE US. ELEMENTS OF THE LEFT HAVE ENCOURAGED THIS, WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY TAKING THE LEAD IN URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO STEER CLEAR OF "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE." E-2 IMPDET.H

{SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: W EUR DIV AND NIO [REDACTED]}

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